

# Online Safety Starts with You

## *A Kid's Guide to Online Privacy*



*This fact sheet provides online safety tips for children ages 9-13 to encourage responsible online behavior and is to be used in conjunction with parental supervision.*

Hello, Digital Buddies! The internet is a great way to connect with friends across the globe, play online video games, learn about interesting topics and more! But it is important to stay safe online while having fun surfing the web.

Here are the ABCs of Online Safety:

- » Do not share any personal information online without your parent's permission. Personal information includes things like your name, phone number, email and home address.
- » Never share your passwords with your friends.
- » Set your profiles to private and only accept friend requests from people you know. Ask a parent if you need help finding your privacy settings!

- » Think before you post! If there is any question about whether a picture is ok to post, ask a parent first.
- » Make sure you ask a parent before downloading any files or software onto your computer.
- » If you receive any mean or suspicious messages, do not respond. Let a parent know immediately!
- » These rules also apply to texting on your smartphone!

### More Information

For more information, visit [www.oprm.va.gov/privacy](http://www.oprm.va.gov/privacy) or email us at [privacy@va.gov](mailto:privacy@va.gov).

### About VA Privacy Service

Launched In 2002 by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), VA Privacy Service is responsible for overseeing and directing the development of VA's privacy program strategic plan and for establishing short- and long-range plans for the privacy program. Its mission is to preserve and protect the personally identifiable information of Veterans and their beneficiaries and VA employees by promoting a culture of privacy awareness and maintaining the trust of those VA serves.

VA



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